

RESOLUTION No. 3

Magistracy—Revision of Pay

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Sir, I rise to move that "This Council recommends that it is necessary in the larger interests of the public that the scale of pay of the magistracy in the land be revised and placed on a satisfactory basis, suited to the times".

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): I may inform the House that the salary of the Magistrates has recently been revised and fixed at Rs. 150—200.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): May I know whether the pay of the District Magistrate has been revised?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): I did not say that the resolution need not be moved because the pay of the magistracy has been revised. I only said that the pay of the Magistrates has been revised.

M. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): May I know whether it is the Sub-Magistrates' pay or the District Magistrate's?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): The salary of the Sub-Magistrates has been revised. The District Magistrate's salary cannot certainly be fixed at Rs. 150—200.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): With effect from what date?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): From the date of order. The order was passed only very recently, I think a couple of days back.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): I am indeed very happy to learn the news that their pay has been revised. But I would like to have it revised a little more. These pays have been fixed ages ago and it will look very awkward to have Magistrates paid so small compared to the other officers in the State. Why should not the Magistrates be placed on a par with the Tahsildars of the State?

Mr. Deputy President: Mr. Salem, are you moving the resolution?

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Yes.

I would like the Magistrates to be placed on a par with the Tahsildars of the State. Formerly revenue jurisdiction and magisterial jurisdiction were all clubbed together and they were bifurcated. Revenue duties devolved on the Tahsildars and judicial duties on the Magistrates. Why should the pay of one be not equal to that of the other? That is the question. The pay of the Tahsildars and the pay of the Magistrates should be on a par. That is the only contention that we have. Moreover as regards the District Magistrate the position at one time in the State was that the Secretary to Government or Secretaries to the Diwan, as it was then called, always were aspiring to become the District Magistrate of the country. We had two District Magistrates formerly. Now we have only one District Magistrate and one Diwan Peishkar. The Diwan Peishkar's pay is on a different scale and that of the District Magistrate is on a different scale, much lower. The District Magistrate's present pay, I understand, is Rs. 300 to 400. Formerly, persons who aspired to become Secretaries further aspired to become District Magistrates and have gone out as District Magistrate. But with the development of the Secretariat, the Secretary perhaps is now drawing twice that of the District Magistrate and the District Magistrate is aspiring to become Secretary. That is the position. Therefore, if the other offices can be raised in their pay and scale there is no reason why the District Magistrate in the country who has jurisdiction of the entire State, should not be raised in his pay.

There is another point. Status in this country, unfortunately is based upon the number of rupees commanded by the individual and not by his merit, nor by his education, nor by any other qualification and attainments. People say: എന്ത് കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടു. 200 ഉറപ്പിക. അതാണമിട്ട്. That is nothing.

Let us take another great anomaly. The Police Commissioner in the State gets Rs. 600 or more. He should be given that and I am not complaining against it. He is supposed to be an officer who is not as big as the District Magistrate. In British India the District Magistrate is the Collector of the District. Here the collection work is taken away from him but the magisterial work remains. The Police Commissioner here is on a par with the District Superintendent of Police in British India. The Police Commissioner in British India draws much less than the District Magistrate. Therefore, when the Head of the Police is paid a higher salary than that of the District Magistrate there is an apprehension, unfortunately in the minds of the public, that if they go into the Court and if the Police Commissioner is interested in a case the District Magistrate would not be easily moved by the litigant, because he does not know what

may happen. I am not saying that it is well-founded. But that feeling is there, and the Police Commissioner may also feel himself in that way. There may be some kind of unhealthy feelings. Therefore, do away with it. I would at least say that the District Magistrate's pay should always be Rs. 10 more than the pay of the Police Commissioner. Let it be even one rupee. That is enough. I am not asking Government to pay money which they do not like to pay to officers of their own. From the public point of view what we have to say is that it must be a little over that of the Police Commissioner, so that persons looking at the whole budget may feel that the District Magistrate has a position and status above that of the Police Commissioner here. That is all I have to say on the subject. I am very glad that this resolution which has been tabled some time ago has brought the result at least of a revision of the pay of the Magistrates announced to-day. I wish to place these few observations before the Government and request the House to see that those officers who are very responsible and in whose hands the liberty, the freedom and the rights of the people are entrusted, are paid adequately. Let us see what this Rs. 150 is to a Magistrate. How many rupees does it work per day? Rs. 5. Vakils appearing before him will get more than that. And it is a wonder, I say a wonder, that the pinch of poverty has not corrupted our Magistracy. To say that a man should live on Rs. 150—that is, with Rs. 5 a day, with family, children, servants and a status to maintain, now-a-days is certainly not possible. Of course, a good proposition has been laid down by our present Diwan that revision of scale should take place only in normal times and that these being abnormal times, all that the Government can possibly do is to give dearness allowance. But these people do not get any dearness allowance because they are getting more than Rs. 100. So you can find in what great pinch they are standing. They are standing to be honest, they are standing with a pinch of poverty, with difficulties to maintain both ends, to educate their children, to keep up their status, dignity and the honour and prestige of the Government. Therefore, I think these officers deserve to be adequately paid not on the scale of British Indian Sub-Magistrates, but at least on a reasonable scale consistent with their dignity. And after all, how many of them are there? 6 of them. If you give them Rs. 50 more it will be Rs. 300 a month and Rs. 3,600 a year. If you give them a hundred rupees more it will be Rs. 7,200 a year. Cannot our State afford that? Is it a case that our State cannot afford? Therefore, it is incumbent from the public point of view to assure the public that these officers are kept far above all temptations, corruption, etc. It is necessary for the good name of the judicial administration of our country to place these officers on a proper scale. If the pay of the officers of the Revenue Department and that of the Secretaries of the Secretariat can be revised, there is no reason why we should allow these people to stand where they reached 30 years ago? Several revisions have been made in the scale of pay of the Secretary to Government, Joint Secretaries and they are given pay much more than that of the District Magistrate himself. Therefore, it is not quite just to compare. Of course, they say comparison is always odious. But it should not be said that we have neglected our judiciary and do not think them to be much, so that we have not cared to revise their pay. It is only in that spirit that I have tabled this resolution, and I hope His Highness' Government would be generous for their own good name and in their own interests as well as the interests of the public at large, to revise the scale further than what they have done. I am very grateful for what they have done in the sense that the spirit of the resolution has been accepted. But what has been done is inadequate and must be revised further.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I support the resolution. I also agree with the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri that the revision is inadequate.

Deputy President: Are you seconding the resolution.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Yes. I am seconding the resolution. In this connection, I wish to bring to the notice of this house that in British India in Taluk Headquarters generally the Sub-Magistrates have no Treasury work. There are other areas where two or three revenue firkas are grouped together under one Sub-Magistrate. Such Sub-Magistrates are Deputy Tahsildars. I do not think that there is any Sub-Magistrate in British India who is a Law Graduate, I mean as far as Madras Province is concerned. There are also a good number of glorified clerks who are mere S.S.L.Cs., raised to the status of Sub-Magistrates and even Tahasildars, at least 50 per cent will be of that type. Among the rest, there may be a good number of graduates and Honours men, but there are only practically very few law-graduates, if any I may be even allowed to say that there may not be even law-graduates who are Sub-Magistrates. In our State, for more than the last three decades, we have been having law-graduates only as our Sub-Magistrates, and our Magistracy, by personal experience of one who lives in the border of

British territory, is far more competent independent and noble than glorified clerk Sub-Magistrates of British Indian provinces. I think the Police administration in our State is strongly and efficiently checked by Magistracy and judiciary because of the independent subordinate judiciary and magistracy. As a result of this people are less harrassed by an ordinary misguided Police Officer. That is why I fully endorse what the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri has been telling. The grade of Magistrates ought, therefore, be revised at least to that of a Tahsildar. The ordinary citizen has more safety at the hands of the judiciary than at the hands of the executive. Then there are a class of Magistrates in our State called First Class Magistrates.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): There is no special class like that.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): There may not be a special cadre but there are Special First Class Magistrates. Powers are allowed to be delegated by the District Magistrate or High Court to certain Sub-Magistrates allowing them to function as Special First Class Magistrates. These Special First Class Magistrates have to do additional work and no additional remuneration is given to them for the extra work done. Of course, probably the seniormost among the Sub-Magistrates are being given these special powers. But both in British India and Travancore, there is a special cadre of First Class Magistrates. Years before, even in our State there was one First Class Magistrate for some-time. That post does not exist now. But it is high time, especially in consideration of the very large number of cases under the Defence of India Rules coming up and also because of the cases under the Food Control Orders, a new Cadre First Class Magistrates with a higher grade of pay is a necessity. This may be in the grade of a District Munciff. It has been the policy of Government even in the matter of giving appointments to certain individuals the Government is guided by no principle when the post goes to a favourite of theirs. If the scale of pay of the post is higher than that he naturally deserves, the grade of the post is reduced. This has become a sort of *mania* with the Government for the last 7 or 8 years. Suppose a certain favourite who had been only a Munsiff till recently has to be raised as Diwan Peishkar or the grade of pay of the New Diwan Peishkar will be reduced to that of a District Magistrate. There may be others who are drawing higher salary and even more efficient and senior than this favourite. In spite of this, the Government will reduce the scale of pay of the Diwan Peishkar and appoint this favourite to such scale for the time being and then a few months after revise the scale to the old grade.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to illustrate that position?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I shall illustrate the position. The present Joint Secretaries are enjoying that privilege. The Assistant Secretaries are enjoying that privilege. These are the common day occurrences in our State. Of course, great politicians and sun-burnt civilians have been at the helm of the administration when such revisions once to the lower and later to the old cadre have been taking place. The grade of the pay of the present District Magistrate was reduced to suit the present incumbants fitting in a few years back. Before that the grade was Rs. 450. I think such revisions have created great depression of morale among the government officers. The great disappointment of the officers in service is a thing which will affect the efficiency of the services more than any thing else.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Efficiency!

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Yes, efficiency of Government services. There is genuine doubt among the members of the public that they will not get justice and fairplay from such discontented officers. This policy has to be criticised and to be completely changed in the interests of the State, in the interests of the people as well as in the interests of the Government. Especially when the head of the department who is in charge of the peace and safety of ordinary citizen it is still worse. So whoever be the District Magistrate, I say, his salary ought to be in a scale commanding the respect of both the citizens and his subordinates. I will not be surprised if the pay of the District Magistrate be reduced further if the Government wants to raise a favourite sub-magistrate to the place. The position of the Commissioner of Police which has been explained by the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri is undoubtedly, according to the grade of pay, superior to that of the District Magistrate. But in the administrative capacity, on troublesome occasions, the Commissioner cannot move without the order of the District Magistrate. The grade of pay, as the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri was rightly pointed out of the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrate, ought to be at least the same though I do not insist that it must be Re. 1 or Rs. 10 more. In British India, the grades of the District Magistrates and that of the District Superintendents of Police are known to be the same. They are officers of the same status and the same grade of salary. The District Magistrate being also the representative of the king has higher status than the District Superintendent of Police or District and sessions Judge.

Any case, District Superintendent of Police is not above the District Magistrate. There are many such anomalies in our State. I think.....

Mr. Deputy President Mr. Iyyu, do you think the House won't mind the Chair insisting on the time limit?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I don't further continue my speech if the Chair insists upon the time limit. I endorse all that the Hon'ble Mover has said and wish that the Government will revise the scale of pay of all the remaining officers in the Magisterial Department as they have done in the case of Sub-magistrate.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (Trichur-North): I have very great pleasure to support this motion tabled by the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri. It is only just now that I realise the seriousness of the complaint of the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam that the actions of the Diwan Peishkar should not be questioned by a Sub-magistrate, at the time when the Amendment Bill to the Cattle Respass Act was before this House. The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam was right. I feel now, because in his eyes the position of the Sub-magistrate is too low for the officer to question the actions of the Diwan Peishkar. I am sure it is in that spirit that the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam has supported this resolution.

Now, the spirit of the resolution is only to increase the status of the Magistracy, which I am sure, includes the District Magistrate also. Now, increasing the status of the magistracy can be done in two ways: either by increasing the pay of the Magistrates and the District Magistrate, or by reducing the pay of the other officers. I ask you, sir, how many tons of rupees are sitting on the other side of this House? What is the real disparity between the pay of the District Magistrate and of certain other officers who are sitting on that side. So there is a reasonable course of increasing the status of the magistracy by decreasing the pay of the other officers comparatively, if it is a financial commitment on the part of the Government to increase the pay of the District Magistrate.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): Is the District Magistrate a head of the Department.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (Trichur-North): I think my hon'ble friend is confusing the issue.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): Sir, he was making a reference that tons and tons of money are sitting on the other side. I meant to say that the District Magistrate was not given a place there because he was not the head of a department.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (Trichur-North): Half a ton of rupees is sitting on the Treasury bench here. I was only suggesting that the status and position of the District Magistrate must be enhanced by increasing the pay of the District Magistrate. Then I suggested the contrary of reducing the pay of the other officers to prove to the public of Cochin that there is great disparity. Otherwise the other way is open. In these days when the government are not for any financial commitment I suggest the latter way. That is to say, I wish to substantiate the spirit in which the resolution has been tabled, that the Sub-Magistrates and the District Magistrate must be looked upon with awe, with fear and with veneration. Sir, I have done.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): Sir, I wish to say a few words. I fully agree with all that has been said for revising the scale of pay of the Magistracy. I wish to add one more argument for that. According to the present method of making appointments to the higher grades of government service the scope for promotions for these magistrates is very limited. I shall explain. Now-a-days in making appointments to higher grades Government generally go out of the service and appoint outsiders for political or other considerations. I do not discuss the desirability of that. The result would be the magistracy do suffer. Many magistrates, several of them past 40—45 and so on, are still drawing this Rs. 150. Where is the scope for their promotion? I know very recently a Magistrate was appointed as a Munsiff. He has only two or three years for him to retire. What a pitiable case! If people are allowed to rot like this in the subordinate services there will be a sort of discontent in the services and their services would not be efficient. They will have no interest in the work. Unless an officer has interest in his work he won't carry out his duties efficiently. He will not be able to balance his family budget. Now-a-days how can an officer live on Rs. 150 or Rs. 125. If he is a young officer with few children at least Rs. 200 is required. Therefore, the present salary is not adequate for a magistrate. I am very glad to note that the Government have been pleased to

make partial revision that is to say, to raise the salary from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200. I do not know whether the annual increment is Rs. 5 or Rs. 10. If it is Rs. 5 it will take ten years to reach the maximum.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (*Secretary to Government*): The grade is Rs. 150-10-200.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Therefore, I would suggest that the maximum may be Rs. 250. In the case of the District Magistrate my submission is his pay should be equivalent to the pay of a second class head of department. That, I think, is Rs. 650 or Rs. 600. Then there is another difficulty. The Advocate-General is getting only Rs. 400. One may ask "Why should the District Magistrate get more than the Advocate-General"? That is why I have tabled a resolution that the pay of the Advocate-General should be increased. We must have an efficient public service. These people should be kept above want, above suspicion. They should be impartial, just and so on. The Magistracy is a healthy check on the Police. The safety and freedom of a citizen depends upon the justice, impartiality and efficiency of the Magistracy. Therefore it is highly necessary that the magistrates' salary should be kept very decent and above suspicion.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്. പണിക്കർ: എന്താണു ഇതേരൂപത്തിൽ തന്നെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം ഞാനും അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. റസലൂഷൻ നമ്പർ ൨൦൮. രണ്ടാംനിയമസഭയുടെ കാലത്തു ഇവിടെ എപ്പോഴായി ഒരു സ്പെഷൽ ഫീനാൻസ് കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ രൂപാൽ അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള ശമ്പളം ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് മജിസ്ട്രേറ്റിനും മറ്റു മജിസ്ട്രേട്ട്മാർക്കും കൊടുക്കണം എന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടായിരുന്നു ആ പ്രമേയം. എന്നാൽ രണ്ടാംക്ലാസ്സ് മജിസ്ട്രേറ്റിനും ആ രൂപാൽ അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചതിൽ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി നിയമസഭാ സാമാജികന്മാരിൽ പലർക്കും ഈ അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടെന്നുണ്ടു് അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയതിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

അതേ സമയത്തിൽതന്നെ കൊച്ചിഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽ ഇന്നു സമാധാനപരിപാലനത്തിൽ അങ്ങേ അറ്റത്തുള്ള ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് മജിസ്ട്രേറ്റിനും ആ രൂപാൽ അനുസരിച്ച ഒരു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് ജഡ്ജിയുടെ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു അതിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നതു്. നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയില്ലെങ്കിലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സ്റ്റാറ്റസ് നിലനില്ക്കണമെങ്കിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടാതെ കഴികയില്ല. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ വലിയൊരു പ്രശ്നംഗത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ മറ്റൊരു കാര്യം പെട്ടതുപോലെ ഒട്ടും അന്യായമല്ലാത്ത ഈ കാര്യത്തിലും ശ്രദ്ധവെച്ചു് ഈ കൌൺസിലിന്റെ രൂപാൽ അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള ശമ്പളം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനും കൂട്ടി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know, Sir, the Government's position with regard to the pay of the District Magistrate, whether they have any idea similar to the increase of the pay of the Sub-magistrates, so that we may properly reply.

Sir, I beg to bring to the notice of the Chair that when such a resolution is being discussed in the House responsible members on the Government side are not in their seats.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I will speak, sir, on behalf of the Government. With regard to the Magistrates' pay it has been said that it has already been revised to Rs. 150-10-200. Government have only very recently taken it up and fixed it at the maximum of Rs. 200. There was a proposal here that it must be of the grade of the Tahsildars, i.e., Rs. 150-10-250. Government think that it is not necessary.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): I wanted only to know whether the Government have any idea of effecting any increase in the pay of the District Magistrate.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): The Government have not yet taken up the question of revising the pay of the District Magistrate and they do not think that it is necessary either at present.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar (*Nellayi*): I am glad to note that the Government have after all revised the pay of the poor magistrates at least a little. The pay of the magistracy requires better revision. That is my opinion. They hold a high place among the class of officers who are over-worked. The quantity of work which they have to do and the nature of their duties alone demand that they should be treated better in the matter of salaries they receive. The Jail Superintendent gets Rs. 200 and I think even now there are Assistant Devaswam Commissioners who receive Rs. 200. The maximum which the magistrates can get will be only Rs. 200. That is what the manager of some of the offices get.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Which office, please.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): They were getting the pay of the manager of the Diwan Peishkar's Office and other offices. Now it is only raised by a little. It is difficult to understand on what principle their maximum is now raised so low as Rs. 200. Their position ought certainly to be approximated to that of Tahsildars of the Taluks whose maximum is now I believe Rs. 250. It is necessary that the Magistracy should attract promising young men from the services or the bar and it will not do if the pay which they get is little better than the Inspector of Police, who in my opinion and in the opinion of the public at any rate is an officer of lower status when compared to a Magistrate. Their work according to the report I believe, has increased very much of late and the case for increasing their pay a little more is, I think, very desirable.

There is an equally strong or even stronger case for giving the District Magistrate of the State a higher pay and a higher status. He is the head of the Criminal Administration and it is insulting alike to him and to that branch of law to put him on a lesser pay than that of the Commissioner of Police. Nowhere in the world does the District Magistrate occupy such a low status or get such a low pay as in this State. He is called the Inspector-General of Prisons a very high-sounding name indeed. I think there is a special Inspector-General of Prisons in Travancore who is paid a very very high salary. He has got special powers under several of the Statutes which all only add to the list of his titles but does not add a rupee to Rs. 400. It is no exaggeration to say that he now satisfied more upon his titles than upon his pay. He is one of the few officers of the State whose salary and status have undergone a progressive deterioration with the march of time. There was a time when his status and pay was claimed to be much higher than that of the Secretary to Government. The late Mr. C. Achyuta Menon, the author of the Cochin State Manual, was promoted as District Magistrate, or transferred as District Magistrate, while holding the position of Secretary to Government, and it was as District Magistrate that he retired. So I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. P. P. Devassy (Trichur-South): Resolution No. 7 of the Agenda that has been tabled by me is also to the same effect as the one that has been moved. The best case has been made out by several of the hon'ble members for the improvement of the status of the Magistrate including that of the District Magistrate. We are happy that the Government has at least partially appreciated the position taken up by this House in this behalf and enhanced the pay of the Second Class Magistrates. It is only extending the same principle a little further in touching the place of the District Magistrate and improving his status also. It needs no comment from anybody to say that the District Magistrate occupies a pre-eminent place in the administration of Criminal Justice. One's individual freedom depends to a very large extent upon the criminal judiciary in this land and being the head of the administration of Criminal Justice it is only fit and fair on the part of the Government that the status of the District Magistrate is also enhanced. It will be only in the interests of the public at large, it will be only fair and just on the part of any Government to keep the status of the District Magistrate always high irrespective of the person concerned. I therefore appeal to the Government to extend their appreciation of the principle involved in this resolution, and take into account the position and salary of the District Magistrate. Of course, we feel that even the revision that has been done with regard to the Second Class Magistrates, has not been thoroughly satisfactory and the Government will, without waiting for further comments or further agitation either on the floor of this House or from elsewhere, again revise the scale of pay of the Second Class Magistrate.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): The Hon'ble Member wants to increase the status and not the pay.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): It has been stated here that the status depends up on the pay.

Mr. M. Nanu Menon (Ernakulam): I have also to say a word on the resolution. In the resolution it is stated that the pay of the magistracy should be revised. I think the District Magistrate also is included in the Magistracy and he is left out. I therefore recommend that his pay also may be reasonably revised.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan (Ezhuvas-Talappalli): This question was overdue and from the discussion on the subject and from the response from the Government we have been able to understand that the Government at this present time even though they were not prepared to revise the pay of the other officers understanding the eminent necessity of this question, before we have begun to discuss upon the resolution, passed orders on the matter. The Sub-Magistrates were now given a scale so to say the starting of which is the starting of the pay of the Tahsildar. According to me the superior of the Sub-Magistrates is the District Magistrate and

the Superior of the Tahsildars is the Diwan Peishkar. So in that way also there is every ground or reason for improving the present grade of the District Magistrate. The position of the District Magistrate is a very enviable position and so it is highly necessary also in the interests of justice and in the interests of that particular branch of Criminal Justice that the people must view the District Magistrate in a very high position. Then only we can expect justice, fear, veneration and law-abiding nature from the subjects also. I have also tabled a resolution resolution No. 166. If the Hon'ble Government is going to complete it very soon it will be well and good. I therefore pray that the Government will be pleased to consider this aspect of revising the pay of the District Magistrate and give effect to that in as satisfactory a manner as possible.

മിസ്റ്റർ. പി. നാരായണമേനോൻ : ശമ്പളം കൂടിയതുകൊണ്ടു അതനുസരിച്ചു സ്റ്റാററസ്സും കൂട്ടമെന്നോ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു ബഹുമാനം വർദ്ധിക്കുമെന്നോ, ശമ്പളം കൂടിയതുകൊണ്ടു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കൂടുതൽ സുഖമനുഭവിക്കാമെന്നോ മറ്റൊരു ഉള്ള കരുതൽക്കും കൊണ്ടല്ല ഇതിനെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നത്. സ്റ്റാററസ്സ്, സ്റ്റാററസ്സ്, എന്നു പറയുന്നതു എന്താണ്? അതെങ്ങിനെയാണു അളക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുക എന്നൊന്നും എനിക്ക് നിശ്ചയമില്ല. ആതുപ്രതിയ്ക്ക് ജനറൽവാർഡ്, പെയ്വാർഡ് അതിൽതന്നെ ക്ലാസ്സിഫിക്കേഷൻ, രണ്ടാംക്ലാസ്സ് എന്നൊക്കെ വാർഡു പ്രത്യേകം തിരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ജനറൽവാർഡിൽ താമസിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് മൺപാത്രങ്ങളിലായിരിക്കും മരുന്നുകൊടുക്കുക. പെയ്വാർഡിൽ താമസിക്കുന്നവർക്കു അതേമതുന്നതന്നെ സ്വച്ഛപ്പാത്രങ്ങളിലായിരിക്കും കൊടുക്കുക. അതിൽ രണ്ടാം ക്ലാസ്സിലുള്ളവർക്കു വെള്ളിപ്പാത്രത്തിലായിരിക്കും കൊടുക്കുക. ഇങ്ങിനെ മരുന്നു ഒന്നുതന്നെയാണെങ്കിലും സ്റ്റാററസ്സനുസരിച്ചു മൺപാത്രം, വെള്ളിപ്പാത്രം, സ്വച്ഛപ്പാത്രം, അതിലും സ്റ്റാററസ്സ് കൂടിയവരുടെങ്കിൽ അവർക്ക് മറ്റൊരു കൊണ്ടുള്ള പാത്രം, ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. പാത്രങ്ങൾക്കു വ്യത്യാസം കാണുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മരുന്നു ഒന്നുതന്നെയാണെന്നുള്ളതു പോലെ ഭക്ഷണത്തിന്റെ കാര്യം എടുത്താൽ സ്റ്റാററസ്സ് കൂടിയവർക്കും സ്റ്റാററസ്സ് കുറഞ്ഞവർക്കും വ്യത്യാസമില്ല. ആഹാരം കഴിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്ത കാര്യമാണ്. സ്റ്റാററസ്സ് കൂടുതലുള്ളവർക്കു വിഭവങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാം. അതു കഴിക്കുന്നതിനുപയോഗിക്കുന്ന പാത്രങ്ങൾ വളരെ വിലപിടിച്ചതു പലതുകാകാം. എങ്കിലും വയർ നിറയെ അഹാരം വേണമെന്നുള്ളതു് ആർക്കും ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്ത ഒരവശ്യമാണ്. ആ നിലയ്ക്കു ഏറ്റവും ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളക്കാരായ, ൧൦ രൂപ മുതൽ ൧൫, ൨൦ രൂപ വരെ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന താഴ്ന്ന നിലയിലുള്ളവർക്കു, സ്റ്റാററസ്സ് വേണം, ആരോഗ്യം വേണം, എന്നാൽ ഇതൊന്നും അവർക്കു സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലെന്നുള്ളതു എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്ന സംഗതിയാണ്. സ്റ്റാററസ്സിനേക്കാൾ എത്രയോ വലിയതാണു പ്രാണനെ രക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു്. അതിനാൽ അവരുടെ ശമ്പളമാണു ആദ്യമായി കൂട്ടേണ്ടതെന്നു ഒരു പ്രമേയം ഞാൻ കൊണ്ടുവരുമായിരുന്നു.

സ്റ്റാററസ്സിനു വേണ്ടിയൊ മറ്റൊരു അല്ല മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടണമെന്നു പറയുന്നത്. ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടൽ കൊണ്ടാണോ കൂടുതൽ ബഹുമാനിക്കുന്നത്? ഞാൻ സാധാരണ അങ്ങിനെ ആരേയും ബഹുമാനിക്കാറില്ല. ൧൦൦ രൂപക്കാരെ കാണുമ്പോൾ തലസ്വല്പം ഒന്നു കനിച്ചു വന്നിരിക്കുക. ൧൫൦ രൂപക്കാരാണെങ്കിൽ കുറെകൂടി ഒന്നു കനിച്ചുവന്നിരിക്കുക. ൨൦൦ ആണെങ്കിൽ മുട്ടുവരെ തലതാഴ്ത്തി വന്നിരിക്കുക. ൧, ൦൦൦ രൂപക്കാരാണെങ്കിൽ നിലത്തോളം തലതാഴ്ത്തുക. ൨൫, ൦൦൦ രൂപ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന വൈദ്യോപാധിയെയാണെങ്കിൽ നിലംതുറന്നു വീണു നമസ്കരിക്കുക. ഇങ്ങിനെ ശമ്പളത്തിന്റെ തോതനുസരിച്ചു സ്റ്റാററസ്സ് നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതു എത്ര രാജ്യത്തിലാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നില്ല. നേരെമറിച്ചു ശമ്പളം വേണ്ട, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളംമതി എന്നു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവരുടെ പേരിൽ പൊതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അസാമാന്യ ബഹുമാനമുണ്ടാകും എന്നുള്ളതാണു വാസ്തവം. കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് മിനിസ്റ്ററുതന്നെ അതിനുദാഹരണമാണ്. മിനിസ്റ്ററന്മാർക്കു രണ്ടായിരമാ മുപ്പായിരമാ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു തയ്യാറായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും, ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ൫൦൦ രൂപ തന്നെ അധികമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെട്ടു ഞങ്ങൾ ജോലിനോക്കിക്കൊള്ളാം എന്നു മിനിസ്റ്ററന്മാർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ അതു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു സമ്മതിച്ചു എന്നേയുള്ളു. ആ ഒരു കാര്യം കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ അവരേക്കാൾ എത്രയോ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങിയിരുന്നവരോടുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ എത്രയോ ഇരട്ടി ബഹുമാനം പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു ആ മിനിസ്റ്ററന്മാരോടുണ്ടായിരുന്നെന്നു നമ്മൾക്കറിയാം. ശമ്പളം കൂടിയതാൽ

പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു ബഹുമാനം വർദ്ധിക്കും എന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയാണെന്നു എനിക്കുതോന്നുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതെന്നു ചോദിച്ചാൽ അതു മറ്റു ചില സംഗതികളാലാണ്.

ഇവിടത്തെ ഔദ്യോഗികലോകത്തെ മൊത്തത്തിൽ രണ്ടായിട്ടു വിഭജിക്കാം. ഒന്നു ഭാഗ്യവാന്മാരുടേതു, മറ്റൊന്നു നിർഭാഗ്യവാന്മാരുടേതു. അതിൽ നിർഭാഗ്യവാന്മാരുടെ വകപ്പിൽ പെടാനിടയായാൽ അവർക്കു ഒരിക്കലും മേൽഗതിക്കു ഇടയുണ്ടാകയില്ല. ഏറ്റവും കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങി ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ജോലിചെയ്തു ജീവതം പാഴാക്കാൻ ഇടയാകും. മറ്റു ഭാഗ്യവാന്മാരുടെ വകപ്പിൽ പെടാനിടയായാൽ ചുരുങ്ങിയകാലം കൊണ്ടു ഉയർന്നു വലിയ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങി നല്ലതുക പെൻഷനോടുകൂടി റിട്ടയർ ചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കും. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ശരിയാണു, ജോലിയെടുക്കാനുള്ള ത്രാണിയും സമമാണ്. എങ്കിലും ഭാഗ്യം, നിർഭാഗ്യം എന്നിരണ്ടു കാരണങ്ങളിലാണു ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾക്കു അവരുടെ ഔദ്യോഗിക ജീവിതത്തിൽ കാണാനിടവരുന്നതു്. സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽ പരീക്ഷ പാസ്സായിട്ടുള്ള രണ്ടുപേർ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിന്നു അപേക്ഷ അയച്ചാൽ അതിൽ ഒരാൾക്കു ഒരു സ്കൂൾ മാസ്റ്ററുടെ ജോലിയാണു കിട്ടിയതെങ്കിൽ അതോടെ അയാളുടെ ജീവിതം പാഴായി. മറ്റൊരാൾക്കു് സിക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിൽ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടിയെന്നുവെങ്കിലും. എങ്കിൽ അയാൾക്കു ക്രമേണ പ്രമോഷൻകിട്ടി നൂറോ ഇരുനൂറോ രൂപ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങാൻ സംഗതിയുണ്ടു്. ഇതു എന്റെ അനുഭവത്തെ വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പറയുന്നതാണ്.

ഞാനും ചില സ്റ്റേഫിതന്മാരും ഒരുമിച്ചു സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽ പരീക്ഷ പാസ്സായി. എനിക്കു ഒരു സ്കൂൾ മാസ്റ്ററുടെ ജോലികിട്ടി; പത്തുകൊല്ലം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടും എനിക്കു ൨൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളംതന്നെ; എന്നാൽ മറ്റു സ്റ്റേഫിതന്മാർ അതിനകം ൭൦-൦, ൮൦-൦ മറ്റും ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഔദ്യോഗികലോകത്തെ ഭാഗ്യവാന്മാരുടേയും, നിർഭാഗ്യവാന്മാരുടേയും എന്നിങ്ങിനെ രണ്ടായിതിരിക്കാം. അതിൽ നിർഭാഗ്യവാന്മാരുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ പെട്ടവരാണ് ഈ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാർ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസയോഗ്യത, ജോലിയുടെ ഗൗരവം, ഇതൊക്കെ നോക്കിയാൽ ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ വേറേയുമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കു ഈ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരേക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളമുണ്ടു്. ഈ നിലയിൽ എന്തുകൊണ്ടു ഈ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാർക്കു ശമ്പളം കുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ് ഇവിടത്തെ പ്രശ്നം. അതാണ് അവരുടെ ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണം എന്നുള്ള ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതിനിടയായതു്. അതിൽ കൂടുതലായി മറ്റൊരാൾക്കുതന്നെ ഞാൻ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് പ്രസിദ്ധിച്ച ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട അംഗം പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ മറ്റുള്ള വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറച്ചാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിനെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിലും വലിയതു പ്രാണനെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതാണ്. സ്വന്തം ജീവനെ രക്ഷിക്കാൻപോലും നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ താഴ്ന്ന തരത്തിലുള്ള അനവധി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉള്ളപ്പോൾ അവരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനായി വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു ഒരു പ്രധാനസംഗതി അല്ല എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെക്കൊണ്ടുവന്ന ബില്ലുകളിൽ ചിലവു ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിൽനിന്നും, ചിലവു മദ്രാസ് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും, ചിലവു ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിൽനിന്നും മറ്റും കൊണ്ടുവന്നതാണെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ ലോകത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ബന്ധുവായ സോവ്യറ്റ് റഷ്യയെ എന്തുകൊണ്ടു മാതൃകയായി സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ ദാരിദ്ര്യം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരെ സഹായിക്കാനായി എന്തുകൊണ്ടു അവിടത്തെ മാതൃകയിൽ ഒരു നിയമനിർമ്മാണത്തിനു ശ്രമിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. അവിടെ ഒരു പുണിന്റെ ശമ്പളം പത്തുരൂപ ആണെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റെ പത്തിരട്ടി നൂറുരൂപ ആയിരിക്കും ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനായ പ്രൈമിനിസ്റ്റർ. അവിടത്തേയും ഇവിടത്തേയും സ്ഥിതിതമ്മിൽ എത്ര അന്തരമാണുള്ളതു്. അതുപോലെ ജാപ്പാനിലും ഏറ്റവും താഴ്ന്ന ശമ്പളവും ഉയർന്ന ശമ്പളവും തമ്മിൽ അത്ര വലിയ അന്തരമില്ല. ഇൻഡ്യയിലാണു ഈ വ്യത്യാസം ഏറ്റവുമധികം നിലനില്ക്കുന്നതു്. ൫ രൂപമുതൽ ൨൫ രൂപവരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളാണ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ അധികവുമുള്ളതു്. ഇതുതന്നെയാണ് കൊച്ചിയിലെ സ്ഥിതിയും. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് വേണ്ടതു്. കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് മിനിസ്റ്ററി പരപ്രേരണ ഒന്നും കൂടാതെതന്നെ ഞങ്ങൾ ഇത്രയും ശമ്പളത്തിനു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി രാജ്യസേവനം ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു വാദത്തം ചെയ്തതുപോലെ,

ഇവിടെയുള്ള വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കാൻ വിരോധം ഇല്ല; ഇന്നത്തെ നിലയ്ക്കു സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിനെക്കാൾ പ്രാണനെ രക്ഷിക്കുകയാണ് പ്രധാന ചുമതല. അതിനായി താഴ്ന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം ഉയർത്താനായി—ഞങ്ങളുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറച്ചു ജോലിചെയ്യാൻ തയ്യാറാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു മുന്നോട്ടു വന്നാൽ കൊള്ളാമായിരുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ ഒക്കുമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഈ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലായിരുന്നു. അതിനല്ല ഇന്നത്തെ രീതിതന്നെ തുടരുന്നതിനാണു ഭാവമെങ്കിൽ ഈ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും കൂട്ടണം, അതിനു കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിന്താങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support the resolution. I have to congratulate the Hon'ble Government in having passed orders enhancing the salary of the magistrates to the grade that has just been stated by the Hon'ble Secretary to Government. This has been a calumnious fact, not to say as scandalous, that these magistrates who are exercising powers of criminal jurisdiction over the entire Taluks of the State were not having the pay of even the headmaster of High Schools in certain towns. Whereas headmasters of High Schools ordinarily of the higher grade get Rs. 200 for working well nigh 180 to 190 days a year with sufficient hours of leisure and any number of other holidays, these officers who have to work the whole day from 10 to 5 or even earlier and later in the Court and further on in his executive capacity and added on to that to attend to other emergencies, have been most poorly paid and most ill-paid officers. It is gratifying indeed to note that the Government at least too late in the day now realised that they have to mete out some justice, to this class of officers. The various limitations of their movement by orders not to leave their jurisdictions, to be present within certain miles of their capital town or taluk headquarters, the various other limitations upon their movement among the public for fear of scandalous rumours, all these are very very insufferable. I would say, limitations of their own personal liberty. It is indeed gratifying that atleast now they have taken the opportunity or rather the occasion to raise their salary. It is but poor complacency even now I would submit to the Hon'ble House, that the salary of these officers is fixed at Rs. 200. As I said the Headmasters salary is Rs. 200 in a High School. It will not be contended, and it will not be disputed that the responsibilities of a Magistrate can stand no comparison with that of the duties and responsibilities of a Head-master; so that some sense of proportion if imbued into the authorities, will certainly give them the power of realising or rather the faculty of realising the essential nature of further going into this matter. Now we have to thank the Government for what it has done and I leave it at that with the hope that they will do the needful at the proper hour and at the proper occasion.

Anyhow we have to thank the Government for what has been done and I leave it at that with the hope that they will do the needful at the proper time and the proper hour. I regret indeed to realise that this order does not take into account the District Magistrate. To a point of information requested for by Hon'ble Friend, the Member for Vadakkancheri, the Finance Member was pleased to state that the matter has never been adverted to and the occasion has never been seen by the Hon'ble Government is indeed a pity.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): Only it has not been taken up now.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): As it has not been taken up, I think I have to use a stronger term than adverted. Anyhow I leave it there. It is indeed a pity. There is only one officer for the whole State. He is the Head of the Criminal Administration. With the advance of civilisation with the present war, with the number of statutes having all sorts of punitive clauses in them, coming into force day by day, the jurisdiction of the District Magistrate gets enlarged and most of the work require the exercise of personal jurisdiction as he cannot delegate or transfer many cases. His powers are exercised in such a way as to enhance the revenues of the State—he has got to work the Cinematograph Act, there is the radio license, there is the Electricity Act, and so many other things requiring to be licensed by him. With all these added responsibilities our Government have not thought that he is a human being whose work and labour have to be paid for. It will be presumptuous on my part to remind the Hon'ble Member or the Cochin Government that there were days when the Secretary to the Diwan as the Secretary was then called was subordinate to the District Magistrate in the matter of pay—I do not say in the matter of prestige or status. I remember at least one or two cases where the Secretary to the Diwan was promoted as District Magistrate and not degraded. But see the present state of affairs. What is the status of the Secretary to Government?

What is his pay and what is the salary of the District Magistrate and his status? So that advancement of times, advancement of civilisation, advancement in the machinery of the department, have brought in so many other reforms in the administration without any compensatory advancement in the pay of the magistracy. As was adverted to by one of the Hon'ble Members here, there was a Special Finance Committee appointed and after an elaborate enquiry lasting for two or three years a report was submitted to the Government. The salary of the high paid officers has been more than half a dozen times revised. But the District Magistrate's pay remained the same for the last 20 or 25 years. When the Finance Committee submitted its report I may inform the House that the recommendation was to fix his pay at 400 to 600. I think I am right.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): You are perfectly right.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): Government were pleased to fix the maximum at Rs. 400 and his grade was fixed at Rs. 300 to 400. This, I think is scant justice and scant courtesy to the office and the officer concerned. We are not concerned with the personality of the officer, or the personnel of the District Magistrate, A.B.C. or D. or any man may be the District Magistrate. I am not at all concerned with the personnel. I am not also concerned with the emoluments or the communities or the capacity. I am only concerned with the efficiency of the office and the efficiency must be on a par and must be paid. It is on that consideration alone that I bring to the notice of the Government that they have not discharged the equitable justice, have not discharged the duty towards the incumbent of that office. They have not discharged the justice; they owe to the incumbent of that office. The Office of the District Magistrate, as I submitted, Sir, is a very onerous one with very high responsibility and greater duties. So far as the jurisdiction of subordinate magistracy is concerned he is an executive officer as the head of the whole Criminal Administration and added to that he is also the Inspector-General of Prisons and for all these things he is getting nothing additional. It is indeed strange that this aspect has never been adverted to by the Hon'ble Government when they were pleased to revise the salary of the magistracy. I hope and respectfully pray that the Hon'ble Government may be pleased at least now to wake up and see that justice is done as far as the pay of the District Magistrate is concerned.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Sir, as regards the emoluments that ought to be paid to Government servants I am one who holds the view that in the lowest cadre at least living wages must be given. I am of opinion that a minimum pay of Rs. 30 to 60 must be given in the lowest cadre, and the highest should in no case, except of course in the case of the Diwan and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, be above Rs. 500 per mensem. Knowing the conditions of Cochin and the facilities of having the necessities of life, a pay of Rs. 500 will be sufficient to keep the status, the dignity and the position of the officer concerned and also to lay by something in a Bank which will not break down. I am one who holds that view. That apart, Sir, and without running on to socialism which is coming and which is bound to come...

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): Why we have socialism even now?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Indiscriminate favouritism shown by, the Government, Sir, is going to hasten the day of the arrival of socialism. I hope and pray, Sir, that that day may not be far. But in the interim to be realistic, in my view, so long as you continue your present system, let the motto be "let not favouritism be smelt in the pay of different officers".

Sir, 19 years back in the year 1100 when the first Council met consisting of efficient, able and honest and dependable representatives of the public, the first and perhaps the most important thing that they did was to have a Special Finance Committee appointed, one of the terms of reference to the Committee being "the standardisation of the pay of the Heads of Departments". Various other references there were too. That Committee did laborious work, did submit an intelligent and intelligible report, and the Government of the day had the wisdom to place that report of the Committee for its scrutiny by the House during the second Council through a Special Sitting of three days. This Hon'ble House recommended certain minor changes in the recommendations of the Committee because the recommendations of the Committee were almost perfect, because that Committee unlike the committees of today consisted of persons who were competent to do the work with which they were entrusted. (A voice—Did they standardise the pay)? They did that in the report and I shall read that portion of the report. I shall invite here the attention of the Hon'ble House to page 31, para 88 of the Committee's report which reads "... We deem it wrong in principle to place the pay and status of the District Magistrate below those of the Police Commissioner. He is the officer responsible for the whole

Criminal Administration in the State and is also the Inspector-General of Prisons. Besides this, recent enactment relating to firms, factories, petroleum, boilers, press, lunacy, etc., have thrown considerable additional work of an administrative nature on him. In view of these circumstances we would place him on a level with second grade Heads of Department in regard to pay and position".

The other portions of the paragraph relate to the magistrates which though not accepted at the time I am glad to have been accepted by the Government now.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur) : Which year please.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri) : I shall give you the date also. But if my Hon'ble Friend will please study and do not find fault with persons who do some exploration work, he can himself know it. The year is 1928 and if date is wanted it is 11th April 1928.

I started my observations, Sir, by saying that one of the terms of reference was "the standardisation of pay". I also submitted to the House that the Committee submitted a report and the members of the Committee were such that they would not wander from the points of reference. I submit Sir, they did standardise the pay. The unfortunate thing was that the wooden Government of that day failed to accept the recommendation inclusive of the standardisation of pay. On the question in hand, namely, the pay of the magistracy, not the whole of the magistracy, because the Government has been pleased to react towards a portion of the resolution, I put a pointed question by way of eliciting information "What about the District Magistrate?" and the answer came from responsible quarters that the matter was not taken up at all and that there is no idea of taking it up now. Therefore the attention of this Hon'ble House has now to be rivetted only on the question of raising the pay of the District Magistrate unless of course this House is not satisfied with the raising of the pay of the Magistrates, unless of course this House is not satisfied by the action of the Government on receipt of the resolution in raising the pay of the magistrates to Rs. 150—200. If the House is not satisfied by the action of the Government in making the Sub-Magistrate's pay Rs. 150—200 it is up to us to request them to make it more decent. But I do not belong to that school of thought which thinks that a Magistrate does require anything more than Rs. 150—200 a month. But there is a reservation in that statement of mine. Let it not be the policy, the foolish policy of Government, to encumber these Sub-Magistrates, these Second Class Magistrates after a lapse of two months of their first appointment and at times less, with first class powers. That is a very ridiculous method of doing things. A Second Class Magistrate from 11 to 12 tries a nuisance case. Immediately like a butterfly.....

Deputy President : Mr. Ezhuthassan, you have got only three minutes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri) : develops into a First Class Magistrate and the next hour he deals with more heavy responsible work. That sight is not anything good. I have drawn the attention of the House to paragraph 88 on page 31 of the Committee's report which recommends a pay to the District Magistrate on a par with the Commissioner of Police, i.e., Rs. 400—600. These two gentlemen ought to have as their pay Rs. 400—600 and in passing orders upon that report on pages 3 and 5 of the orders upon this report curious arguments seem to have been advanced and the District Magistrate's pay is put at Rs. 400. It is up to the Government of Cochin to think for a moment and see whether in the light of the enormous work that the District Magistrate is seen to be attending to the present pay is anything sufficient. It is only Rs. 300—20—400. Do please put him on a par at least with, if not higher than the Commissioner of Police who is to take orders from him. The Commissioner of Police who has to take orders from the District Magistrate is getting much higher than the District Magistrate. That is very bad indeed. Therefore my prayer is, don't keep up this invidious distinction which is meaningless and unintelligible. So please do put the District Magistrate on a par at least with the Commissioner of Police is the humble prayer that I make.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts) : The case of the magistrates was considered hard by the Government and they have just now revised the pay of the magistrates from Rs. 125/5/150 to Rs. 150/10/200. This has received the approval of one section of the House but not of another section of the House.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur) : May I know Sir, why you say that the case of the magistrates was considered hard?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts) : You can ask the House itself.

Government passed orders revising the pay of the Magistrates. Government agreed with the House that the pay of the Magistrates was not sufficient.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): I say why hard?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It is self evident by the revision effected by the Government. Government thought so and it was the opinion of this Hon'ble House also that the case of the Magistrates required revision.

Now one section of the House, as I submitted, is satisfied with the revision and another section of the House is not satisfied. They want to go ahead and put it on a par with that of the Tahsildar, i. e., Rs. 150—250. Government do not think that the case of the Tahsildar and the Magistrate stands on a par. In the first place the Magistrate has ample opportunities for promotion to the higher grades in the Judiciary.

Mr. Popatlal Govardhan Lalan (*Industries and Commerce*): Not in this State.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): A perusal of the Civil List will convince you. Most of our Munsiffs have been Magistrates at one stage or another.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): That is a very bad thing.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): My submission is only that the Magistrate has got fairly good opportunities for promotion and he is getting it also in our State. Similarly these Munsiffs develop into Additional Judges and District Judges and we have got even a case of a High Court Judge having been once a Munsiff. Therefore, my submission is that the case of the Magistrates cannot be said to be on a par with that of the Tahsildar. Government consider that the Tahsildar is a much more heavily worked officer with very little prospect for promotion. If you look into the Civil List—

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Because you do not follow the British practice.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I am only submitting facts as they are.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): We want remedies.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It is up to you to suggest remedies. If you look into the Civil List, you will find that many of our Tahsildars have been generally stationary there for a number of years.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Why do you prevent them from getting promotion?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I am stating bare facts as they are now. It was also pointed out here that the Magistrates have got very heavy work. It is true that their work has somewhat increased on account of the Defence of India Rules. And to give them relief Government have also appointed Additional Magistrates.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): What about Additional Tahsildars?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): They are for grain purchase. They have got a separate section chiefly, if not completely, for grain purchase. Government are convinced that the present grade of pay given to Magistrates is adequate and they are on a better footing than many others. A comparison with Travancore will also be very helpful in this connection. There it is only Rs. 100 to Rs. 150. There also Law Graduates are generally appointed as Magistrates and Sub-Magistrates and their pay is Rs. 100—10/2—150.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Ordinarily, a Sub-Magistrate there becomes a Diwan Peishkar.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Here he becomes a High Court Judge. Government stands convinced that the lot of the Magistrates as such has been improved to a great extent by the present revision. They do not propose to go further than that at present.

Now with regard to the District Magistrate, the position is slightly different. It was pointed out on the floor of this House that District Magistrates in Travancore and British India are drawing very much fatter salaries. It is conceded. But it must not be forgotten that both in British India and Travancore there is no such person as the District Magistrate as such. Revenue function and criminal function are combined in one person. Therefore the pay there is much higher. In Travancore the Diwan Peishkar who is also the District Magistrate draws somewhere about Rs. 500 to Rs. 750. In British India it is the Collector. I do not know his pay. It is very much higher.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (*Secretary to Government*): It is Rs. 2,500.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): You should not institute a comparison with Travancore and British India and say that simply because the District Magistrates in those places draw much higher pay, our District Magistrate also should draw a much higher pay.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Why do you compare the Magistrates of Travancore with Cochin?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It is just to show that our position here is much better.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Try to show to your own advantage.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Wherever convenient, they will do that.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): There is another difficulty also if we were to think of raising the pay of the District Magistrate. If you think of revising the pay of the District Magistrate what will you do with the pay of the Additional Judge. The two places of Additional Judges are on Rs. 400 and Rs. 450. The grades of these two posts must naturally be revised because in some cases the files from the District Magistrate go to the Additional Judge who has got Sessions powers. The Additional Judge has got appellate jurisdiction over the District Magistrate. In no case therefore can the Additional Judge or the District Judge be on a lower pay than the District Magistrate.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): May I know from the Finance Member whether the District Magistrates have been appointed District Judges.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I do not know. If the District Magistrate's pay is to be revised, automatically the pay of the Additional Judges and of the District Judges must be revised.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): What is the harm?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): No harm. And then High Court Judges. My submission therefore is that this is not the proper time to think of a revision of pay which embraces so to say all Heads of Departments. We have to wait for normal better times for thinking of standardisation and revision of pay of Heads of Departments for which the urgency is also not yet established.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Is it proper to revise the pay in the Secretariat not revising outside?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I am afraid you are going far beyond the point at issue. My submission is if we take up the revision of the District Magistrate's pay we will have to take up the revision of pay of the two Additional Judges, then the District Judges the High Court Judges and all Heads of Departments.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): There, no, no.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Whenever it suits you, you say no. But the fact is the other officers will come up with analogies and comparisons saying "You have raised the pay of such and such people, why not raise our pay also?" I am afraid this House may also come up with resolutions and cut motions for a general revision.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): When more than one member is in possession of the House we can hear neither. That is the difficulty.

Deputy President: In such times we have to submit ourselves to difficulties.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I have therefore to point out that this is not the proper time to take up the revision of pay of the Heads of Departments in general including the District Magistrate. I believe the proper time may come after the war when normal conditions are restored and after that we know where we stand.

Another point, Sir, whatever be the District Magistrate's pay, he generally gets his promotion. Look at the instance of Mr. M. Rama Menon. He was promoted as District Judge and as Excise Commissioner. Then Mr. P. J. George and then Mr. M. M. Paul. They got their due promotions. An officer of course should not always think of improving his prospects by getting his pay revised. He must also look up for promotions in the service.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Is the Finance Member confusing the pay of the officer with the pay or salary of the office?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Absolutely no confusion. I say whoever be the incumbent of the District Magistrate's post and whatever be his grade of pay he must also expect to get his promotions to the higher grade. We have got three or four

instances within recent memory where these officers have been promoted. Somebody was adverting to discontentment. There is absolutely no question of dejection, disappointment and such things. Always we get our legitimate promotions. So that my submission is, according to the Government, no case has been made out for taking up just now a revision of pay of the District Magistrate. It will involve automatically the revision of pay of the Heads of Departments and so to say a general revision of the pay of all officers which according to the Government should wait for the present and may be taken up in normal times.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): What about the several First Class Magistrates?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): I have already said whatever I have to say about Magistrates.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Sir, I listened very carefully without any interruption or interrupting the Hon'ble the Finance Member. His case is that Government do not wish to go further. This is the last word and I do not wish to go further. But I hope that is not the last word. That the Tahsildar's grade is different is well known. Tahsildars also may get promotion. Your idea of promotion is very good and there is no ground to grumble or feel discontent, etc. The case of the Tahsildar is also there. You can promote him as the Diwan Peishkar. When you bifurcated the Diwan Peishkar's place from that of the District Magistrate, why did you give one person a higher pay of Rs. 800 maximum and the other only Rs. 400? One individual is getting a fat pay. He was doing both the work as the Collector or the Diwan Peishkar was doing in Travancore.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): There were two Diwan Peishkars.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): One man became the Diwan Peishkar and the other became a District Magistrate. The man who became the Diwan Peishkar gets double the pay of the man who became only a District Magistrate. That is an anomaly. If you want to stick to your mistake you may do so. We want you to correct it. That is the position from which the Government should look upon the matter. Then there is the case, that Magistrates have chances for promotion. We know that. Why should they ask for promotion? Because they think they will get higher salary. We want men to be contented and to sit in their places.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): You don't want them to be promoted.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): If he gets Rs. 500 he would not like to go from there. He would become a more efficient and honest officer. He will be more experienced. You instanced the case of the present Director of Food Supplies being taken away from one post to the other, from a square hole you put him into a round hole with great detriment to many others, who have gone before him as litigants. He has heard a part of the case. Another man hears the second part of the case, a third man a third part of the case and the fourth man comes he has forgotten the whole thing and the whole thing has to be started afresh. That is not beneficial to the public at large. If you have a regular standard in grades of pay, the so called putting of the square man in the round hole will not take place. Each man will be content to remain at his place because he knows that if he goes away he won't come back. Absolutely vested authority rests. In the Secretariat, the pay has been revised and revised and revised. Why? Because you wanted to favour certain individuals. That is our charge against you.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): No.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Why no?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): I said no, because it is not a fact. There has been absolutely no intention to favour anybody and to revise the scales accordingly.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Nor do I say the present Government is responsible for it.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): I say it is responsible.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): If you were in the first Council you would have seen that one charge of the non-official benches, against the Treasury bench was nepotism, favouritism and communalism, in season and out of season and we have been attacking the Government, and as a result of that, the Finance Committee came. Therefore, there is no use of hiding the fact. Pay has been revised, offices have been created, offices have been abolished, again re-created several times for favouring individuals. I make the charge.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): We refute it.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): The public will judge. I have no objection in your joining issue. The pay of one individual who was favoured was more than the pay of the Chief Justice of Cochin and that was pointed out on the floor of this House.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): That was in good olden days.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): I do not mean the Director of Public Instruction. Far from it. I can take the civil list and show you that in a few years' time he became a Rs. 800 man before so many other people. (A voice: Who is that gentleman?) Why should I name individuals? I think it was the Hon'ble Member for Nellore that brought it before the notice of the House and the Government, how offices have been reformed, ruled and reformed and emoluments have been increased, and you would have to tell him that it is not so. An officer for whom a Rs. 200 appointment was created.....

Mr. Deputy President: Order, Order.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Therefore, I say, that should not be the criterion.

Mr. Deputy President: I would like to remind the Hon'ble Member of the time limit.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): What is my time limit?

Mr. Deputy President: You have already exceeded the time limit. I will give one or two minutes more.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): I am the mover.

Mr. Deputy President: When moving he can take 20 minutes. For his reply he can take only 10 minutes.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Only 10 minutes? I have finished.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): I agree that this is not the time and I myself said that the Government have declared the policy that dearness allowance must be given now and revision of salaries must take place in normal times. But nevertheless that is not an argument to ward off an evil day. If that is not so, if you think that there is hardship even in normal times, are you capable of imagining that if these were normal times you would have effected the revision now. I, therefore, commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House and ask the House to vote upon it so that the Government may know the trend of opinion and move according to public opinion. Even an elephantine Government will move. That was the word used by the Diwan yesterday. Of course, there are two views here. But I hope that even that position will be abrogated and Government will move readily in the right direction according to public opinion as expressed in this House. With these few words I press the resolution.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): Sir, I wish to say a few words. Before putting this resolution to vote it may be made clear that the revision that is sought to be made by this resolution is over the one that has recently been made. A revision has been made by the Government in the pay of the Magistrates after the resolution has been sent. So when the resolution is put to vote it must be made clear that the further revision that is intended by this resolution is over and above the recent revision made by the Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): We confine ourselves to the pay of the District Magistrate.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): What I mean to say is that there has been no amendment to restrict the scope of the resolution to the District Magistrate's pay alone. The position when the resolution was sent by the Hon'ble Member is slightly different from the present position. At the time the resolution was sent the grade of pay of the Magistrates was a particular one, that is to say, Rs. 125-150. Government have partly accepted the principle of the resolution and have revised the grade of salary to Rs. 150-200. If the position is that even this Rs. 150-200 is not sufficient that is one thing. If the position is that a revision of salary of the District Magistrate alone is intended by this House it is another thing.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): Both.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): Let me finish please. The resolution, as it is, if put to the vote of the House, it will not be correctly understood. I want to make that position clear on the merits of the question. I want to refute only two arguments made by the mover of this Resolution and some others. One is with regard to salary that it should have a proportion to the particular nature of the work to put it or in other words the mere fact that a person's salary is a particular one will handicap him in sitting in judgment over the actions of others over him. I make it specific because it was mentioned that the Sub-Magistrates or that matter the District Magistrate would find it inconvenient to criticise the action of the Head of the Police Department drawing a salary higher than that of the District Magistrate. I certainly cannot

accept that position. The judiciary has absolutely nothing to do with the salary of a particular officer whose action is being criticised. If at the instance of the Police Commissioner a false charge is brought to any court do you for a moment think that simply because the Magistrate is drawing only Rs. 150 he will be afraid of the Commissioner of Police and will not exercise his judicial discretion in the matter? I do not think that any person can hold that simply because a person is drawing only Rs. 150 he cannot sit in judgment over the action of the Commissioner of Police, or even the action of the Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): He can, but he won't.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): He should and he would do it. The District Judge is drawing only Rs. 500. Does it mean to say that he cannot decide a case against the Government or against the Diwan?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): We cannot answer you.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): That is because it is unanswerable. Then another thing is that the position of the District Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police here is not absolutely on a par with the District Magistrate of a British Indian Districts and the District Superintendent of Police there. Here I would say the Commissioner of Police stands on a par now with the Inspector-General of Police of British Indian Provinces. The Collector and the District Magistrate, as the Hon'ble Members of this House know is not a judicial officer alone. His pay is fixed on a higher grade because he is in charge of the revenue work also. He is in charge of both the revenue work which is looked after by the Diwan Peishkar here and also that of the District Magistrate's work. Therefore it is not fair to compare the position of the District Magistrate here with the District Magistrate of British India and the Commissioner of Police here with that of the District Superintendent of Police of a British Indian District. Here he is the head of a whole Department and I suppose he is placed on a par with the Inspector-General of Police of a whole British Indian province. That is all I have to say on the merits of the resolution. So I would only request the Hon'ble Members to make clear what exactly they want to put to vote. If it is only the question that the Government should revise the grade of salary of the Magistracy I would submit that it has been partly conceded. The principle has been accepted to a very great extent by the Government. But on the other hand if it is only that the District Magistrate's salary is to be revised then I submit that no amendment to that effect has been seen tabled in this House.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Not necessary.

Mr. Deputy President: I will explain. The resolution if interpreted in the light of the discussion here, will mean that though the House is thankful to the Government for the revision recently made they are not entirely satisfied with it and that they want a revision in the grade of pay of the District Magistrate also.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Secretary to Government): But Sir, it is only the resolution that is put to vote and not the discussion.

Mr. Deputy President: There is a precedent in this House of Government interpreting the resolution in the light of the discussion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): What about the First Class Magistrates, Sir?

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): I have absolutely nothing more to say. I press the resolution to a division. The word "Magistracy" in the resolution very well includes District Magistrate also.

Resolution put and carried.

RESOLUTION No. 4

Separate water reservoir for the General Hospital

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon (Ernakulam-Women): The resolution standing in my name runs thus:—

This Council recommends to the Government to have immediately a separate water reservoir for the General Hospital at Ernakulam.

I understand from the Chief Engineer that connection has been given to the main pipe in the General Hospital. I would like to know from the Chief Medical Officer whether continuous water supply is being given to all sections of the General Hospital including the X-Ray and the Ophthalmic Hospital also.